Statement—II

Present States of domestic Civil Aviation Sector Scheduled Domestic Passenger Traffic during last 6 years

SI. No.	Year	Passengers Carried (millions)	Annual Growth Rate (%)
1	1998-99	11.34	—
2	1999-00	11.95	5.4
3	2000-01	12.95	8.4
4	2001-02	12.13	-6.3
5	2002-03	13.23	9.1
6	2003-04	14.78	**11.7**

Compounded annual growth rate during last 5 years - €.4%

Market Share of Various Scheduled Airlines in Domestic Scheduled Passenger Traffic in the year 2003-04

SI. No.	Airlines	Passengers Carried (in Lakhs)	Maket Share (%)
1	Indian Airlines (including	58.08	39.3
2 3	Alliance Air)	68.98	46.7
4	Jet Airways	19.24	13.0
	Sahara Airlines	1.49	1.0
	Air Deccan		
	Total	147.79	100.0

Village tourism in Tamil Nadu

*315. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to promote and publicize village tourism in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) whether Government plan to encourage foreign and domestic tourists to visit the villages in Tamil Nadu to see the Pongal Festival and Jallikattu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has initiated a Rural Tourism scheme to promote Village Tourism as the primary product to spread tourism and it socio-economic benefits to rural regions. The scheme aims at showcasing rural life, art, culture, and heritage at rural locations, thereby benefiting the local community economically and socially as well as enabling interaction between tourists and locals for a more enriching tourism experience.

The Rural Tourism Scheme is being implemented in 31 villages of India. In Tamil Nadu the scheme is under implementation at Chettinad Heritage Centre (Karaikudi) in Sivaganga District of Tamil Nadu and in Kazhugumalai village in Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu (Rural tourism is multi-faceted and entails farm/agricultural tourism/cultural tourism/ nature tourism/adventure tourism and eco tourism). Ministry of Tourism showcases these experiences while promoting and marketing India for the domestic and international markets and also under its Incredible India Campaign. The publicity material of India Tourism highlights these products as also the Pongal and Jallikattu of Tamil Nadu. In addition, Tamil Nadu Tourism also actively promotes Pongal and Jallikattu by printing publicity material for distribution to tourists.

Agriculture Finance by RRBs

*316. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture finance by regional rural banks has been targeted to grow at the rate of 40 per cent during the current financial year;

(b) whether the target for agriculture finance set by RRBs during the current financial year was Rs. 8500 crore which is 40 per cent higher than the figure achieved during the previous financial year;